REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The present invention as set forth in **Claim 1** relates to an external additive for a toner for electrophotography comprising:

oxide fine particles which contain silicon, wherein the oxide fine particles have a primary particle diameter of 30 nm to 300 nm in number average, **a standard deviation σ of a particle size distribution of the primary particle diameter satisfies a relation of: R/4 ≤ σ ≤ R,** in which the R expresses the primary particle diameter, the oxide fine particles are substantially spherical having a circularity SF1 of 100 to 130 and a circularity SF2 of 100 to 125, the circularity SF1 is defined as an equation (1) and the circularity SF2 is defined as an equation (2);

$$SF1 = (L^2/A) \times (\pi/4) \times 100 \qquad \text{equation (1)}$$

$$SF2 = (P^2/A) \times (1/4\pi) \times 100 \qquad \text{equation (2)}$$

wherein "L" expresses the absolute maximum length of the oxide fine particles; "A" expresses a projected area of the oxide fine particles; and "P" expresses a maximum perimeter of the oxide fine particles.

None of Barder and Inokuchi combined with Yamashita, Ishiyama, Kuramoto and Ichimura disclose or suggest an external additive as claimed comprising:

oxide fine particles which contain silicon, wherein the oxide fine particles have a primary particle diameter of 30 nm to 300 nm in number average, **a standard deviation σ of a particle size distribution of the primary particle diameter satisfies a relation of: R/4 ≤ σ ≤ R.**

The Examiner wanted to see an actual calculation in support of the previously made argument that "it is possible to process the images of Figures 1 and 2 to calculate the value of

σ of <u>Barder</u>. In that case, the value of σ of <u>Barder</u> will clearly fall out of the range defined by the subject application."

Applicants have now submitted a **Rule 132 Declaration** showing the calculation of the value of σ of <u>Barder</u> based on Figure 2 of <u>Barder</u>. Based on the calculation, it is shown that <u>Barder</u> does NOT have a standard deviation σ of a particle size distribution of the primary particle diameter which satisfies a relation of: $R/4 \leq \sigma \leq R$. See conclusion at page 3 of the Declaration.

Regarding <u>Inokuchi</u>, the applicants consider that the Examiner's assertion that the particles having the same composition must have the same properties lacks foundation. The attached **Rule 132 Declaration** shows that the Example 1 of <u>Inokuchi</u> does NOT have a standard deviation σ of a particle size distribution of the primary particle diameter which satisfies a relation of: $R/4 \leq \sigma \leq R$. See conclusion at page 5 of the Declaration.

<u>Yamashita</u>, <u>Ishiyama</u>, <u>Kuramoto</u> and <u>Ichimura</u> do not cure the defects of <u>Inokuchi</u>.

Therefore, the rejections of the Claims over <u>Barder</u> and <u>Inokuchi</u> combined with <u>Yamashita</u>, <u>Ishiyama</u>, <u>Kuramoto</u> and <u>Ichimura</u> are believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.
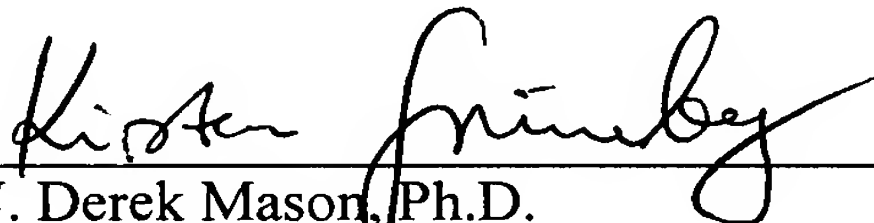
The rejections of Claim 15 are moot in view of the cancellation of this Claim.

The objection to the specification is obviated by the amendment of the specification.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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